GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4249
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
DENIAL OF PASSAGE OF GOODS THROUGH PAKISTAN
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan did not allow health biscuits/wheat from India to reach Afghan kids through their territory as reported in the Indian Express dated July 31, 2005;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons in this regard; and

(c) the total loss suffered on this account?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes Sir. Pakistan did not permit transit of wheat/biscuits for World Food Programme`s school feeding programme in Afghanistan.

(b) Pakistan does not allow transit of Indian goods through its territory including for goods/material under Indian assistance programme for Afghanistan.

(c) The additional expenditure incurred cannot be calculated in the absence of the cost of transportation through Pakistan. The cost of transportation for supplying the biscuits through Iran has been as under :

First Tranche of 9526 MT of biscuits: Rs. 11 crore
Second Tranche of 7496 MT of biscuits: Rs. 14.29 crore
Third Tranche of 18,000 MT of biscuits: Rs. 31.08 crore